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20. (New) The web server of claim 16 further comprising a receiver receiving user credentials from the client system.

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21. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving, by the web server, information selected from the group consisting of the address of the server hosting the identified application program, the users who are authorized to use the identified application, a group of users authorized to use the application, and the minimum capabilities required of the client system to execute the identified application.

22. (New) The web server of claim 16 wherein the service module further collects information selected from the group consisting of the address of the server hosting the identified application program, the users who are authorized to use the identified application, a group of users authorized to use the application, and the minimum capabilities required of the client system to execute the identified application.

23. (New) An article of manufacture having computer-readable means for presenting to a client system application programs that are available for use, the article comprising:

computer-readable means for receiving, by a web server, an identification of at least one application program hosted by at least one of a plurality of servers;
computer-readable means for determining, at the web server, for a hosted application program, a server selected from the plurality of servers for executing that application program based on the received information;
computer-readable means for creating, at the web server, a page describing a display of hosted application programs available to the client system; and
computer-readable means for transmitting the created page to the client system for display.

24. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 23 further comprising computer-readable means for receiving, by the web server, user credentials from a client system.

25. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable means for receiving an identification further comprises:

computer-readable means for parsing an SGML document; and
computer-readable means for retrieving, responsive to the parsed SGML document, an
identification of at least one application program hosted by at least one of the
plurality of servers.

26. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 24 wherein the computer-readable means for
receiving user credentials comprises computer-readable means for receiving, by the web server,
biometric user credentials from a client system.

27. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 24 wherein the computer-readable means for
receiving user credentials comprises computer-readable means for receiving, by the web server,
encrypted user credentials from a client system.

28. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 24 wherein the computer-readable means for
receiving user credentials further comprises:

computer-readable means for receiving, by the web server, user credentials from a client
system;

computer-readable means for authenticating at the web server the user of the client
system based on the received user credentials; and

computer-readable means for executing a selected one of the available application
programs hosted by one of the plurality of servers without requiring further receipt
of user credentials from the client system.

29. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable means for
creating comprises computer-readable means for creating an SGML page indicating hosted
application programs available to the client system.

30. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable means for
creating comprises computer-readable means for creating an HTML page indicating hosted
application programs available to the client system.

31. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable means for creating comprises computer-readable means for creating an output page describing the available application programs as icons in a graphical user interface window.

32. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable means for transmitting comprises computer-readable means for transmitting the created page to the client system using HTTP.

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33. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 23 further comprising:
computer-readable means for receiving a request to execute the hosted application program; and
computer-readable means for executing the requested application program at the determined server.

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34. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 33 wherein the computer-readable means for executing at the determined server further comprises computer-readable means for executing the requested application in a window described in the created page.

35. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 33 further comprising computer-readable means for establishing a connection between the client system and the server executing the requested application.

36. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 23 further comprising computer-readable means for communicating, by the web server, with the plurality of servers to determine the application programs hosted by the plurality of servers.

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Please cancel claim 15. Please amend claims 1-14 and 16-19 as follows:

1. (Once amended) In a network including a client system and a plurality of servers, the plurality of servers including a web server, a method for presenting to the client system application programs that are available for use, the method comprising:

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(a) receiving, by a web server, an identification of at least one application program hosted by at least one of a plurality of servers;

- (b) determining, at the web server, for a hosted application program a server selected from the plurality of servers for executing that application program based on the received information;
- (c) creating, at the web server, a page describing a display of hosted application programs available to the client system; and
- (d) transmitting the created page to the client system for display.
2. (Once amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving, by the web server, user credentials from a client system.
3. (Once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises:
- (a) parsing an SGML document; and
 - (b) retrieving, responsive to the parsed SGML document, an identification of at least one application program hosted by at least one of the plurality of servers.
4. (Once amended) The method of claim 2 wherein receiving user credentials comprises receiving by the web server biometric user credentials from a client system.
5. (Once amended) The method of claim 2 wherein receiving user credentials comprises receiving by the web server encrypted user credentials from a client system.
6. (Once amended) The method of claim 2 wherein receiving user credentials further comprises:
- (a) receiving by the web server user credentials from a client system;
 - (b) authenticating at the web server the user of the client system based on the received user credentials; and
 - (c) executing a selected one of the available application programs hosted by one of the plurality of servers without requiring further receipt of user credentials from the client system.
7. (Once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises creating an SGML page indicating hosted application programs available to the client system.

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8. (Once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises creating an HTML page indicating hosted application programs available to the client system.
9. (Once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises creating an output page describing the available application programs as icons in a graphical user interface window.
10. (Once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) comprises transmitting the created page to the client system using HTTP.
11. (Once amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
(e) receiving a request to execute the hosted application programs; and
(f) executing the requested application program at the determined server.
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12. (Once amended) The method of claim 11 wherein step (f) further comprises executing the requested application in a window described in the created page.
13. (Once amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising establishing a connection between the client system and the server executing the requested application.
14. (Once amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating, by the web server, with the plurality of servers to determine the application programs hosted by the plurality of servers.

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16. (Once amended) In a network including a client system and a plurality of servers hosting applications, a web server comprising:
- a service module collecting an identification of at least one application program hosted by at least one of the plurality of servers;
 - a database storing the collected identifications wherein the service module determines for at least one application program a server selected from the plurality of servers for executing the application program based on the received information;
 - an output display creation engine creating a page describing a display of hosted programs available to the client system; and

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a transmitter transmitting the created page to the client system for display.

17. (Once amended) The web server of claim 16 wherein said service module transmits a datagram to at least one of the plurality of servers to collect the identification of at least one application program hosted by those servers.

18. (Once amended) The web server of claim 16 wherein said output display creation engine creates the page using SGML document templates.

19. (Once amended) The web server of claim 18 wherein said transmitter transmits the created page using HTTP.

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 9 beginning with "The client node 10 can be" with the following paragraph:

The client node 10 can be any personal computer (e.g., 286, 386, 486, PENTIUM, PENTIUM II, MACINTOSH computer), Windows-based terminal, Network Computer, wireless device, information appliance, RISC Power PC, X-device, workstation, mini computer, main frame computer or other computing device that has a windows-based desktop and sufficient persistent storage for executing application programs downloaded from the application servers 30, 32, 34 across the network 40. Windows-oriented platforms supported by the client node 10 can include WINDOWS 3.x, WINDOWS 95, WINDOWS 98, WINDOWS NT 3.51, WINDOWS NT 4.0, WINDOWS CE, MACINTOSH, JAVA, and UNIX. The client node 10 can include a display screen 12, a keyboard 14, memory 16 for storing downloaded application programs, a processor 17, and a mouse 18. The memory 16 can provide persistent or volatile storage. The processor 17 can execute the application programs locally on the client node 10 and display a resulting windows-based desktop on the display screen 12. Such local processing on the client node 10 is according to the above-described client-based computing model.

Please replace the paragraph on page 9 beginning with "Alternatively, the client node 20" with the following paragraph:

Alternatively, the client node 20 can be any terminal (windows or non-windows based), or thin-client device operating according to a server-based computing model. In a server-based computing model, the execution of application programs occurs entirely on the application servers 30, 32, 34, and the user interface, keystrokes, and mouse movements are transmitted over the network 40 to the client node 20. The user interface can be text driven (e.g., DOS) or graphically driven (e.g., WINDOWS). Platforms that can be supported by the client node 20 include DOS and WINDOWS CE for windows-based terminals. The client node 20 includes a display screen 22, a keyboard 24, a mouse 28, a processor (not shown), and persistent storage (not shown).

Please replace the paragraph on page 31 beginning with "The PNAPI 52 provides" with the following paragraph:

The PNAPI 52 provides automatic and manual management for Program Neighborhood application objects stored in the local cache 60. The local cache 60 can either be refreshed manually by the user of the client node 10, or at a user-definable refresh rate, or by the server at any time during a connection. In a WINDOWS implementation, the PNAPI 52 can build remote application file associations and manage the "Start" menu and desktop icons for application object shortcuts.

Please replace the paragraph on page 34 beginning with "To run the Program Neighborhood" with the following paragraph:

To run the Program Neighborhood application in a server-based implementation, the user of the client node 20 connects to an initial desktop (at the server 30') and launches the Program Neighborhood application from within that desktop environment. The connection to the initial desktop can occur automatically, e.g., via a logon script of the client node 20, via an entry in the StartUp group in WINDOWS 95, or by another centrally managed server specific mechanism. All remote application management and launching is accomplished through this initial desktop.

Please replace the paragraph on page 35 beginning with "In one embodiment, the web-based" with the following paragraph:

In one embodiment, the web-based Program Neighborhood application includes a group of objects that manage various aspects of the application. In one embodiment, the application includes three primary object classes that "plug in" to a web server: a gateway object class; a credentials object class; and an applications object class. In some specific embodiments, the object classes are provided as JAVA BEANS. The three primary object classes facilitate: validation of user credentials into a server farm; generation of lists of published applications that a specified user may access; provision of detailed information about a specific published application; and conversion of published application information into an ICA-compatible format.

Please replace the paragraph on page 35 beginning with "When provided as Java beans" with the following paragraph:

When provided as JAVA BEANS, the objects can be accessed in a number of different ways. For example, they may be compiled as COM objects and made available to the web server as ACTIVEX components. In another embodiment, the JAVA BEANS can be used in their native form, such as when the server uses JAVA Server Pages technology. In yet another embodiment, the JAVA BEANS can be instantiated and used directly in a JAVA servlet. In still another embodiment, the server 30 can instantiate the JAVA BEANS as COM objects directly.

Please replace the paragraph on page 36 beginning with "A gateway object class" with the following paragraph:

A gateway object class handles communications with a target server farm. In one embodiment, the gateway object class is provided as an abstract JAVA class that cannot be instantiated. A particular gateway object may retrieve application information by communicating with a server farm using a particular protocol, reading cached application information, a combination of these two methods, or other various methods.